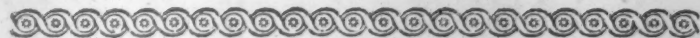


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A full and Candid

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P A M P H L E T, &c.



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ANSWER TO A PAMPHLET

CALLED

A Genuine and Succinct Narrative

O F

A SCANDALOUS, OBSCENE, and exceedingly profane
LIBEL, entitled, an

ESSAY ON WOMAN.

By a FRIEND to TRUTH.

Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see;
That mercy I to others shew,
That mercy shew to me.

POPE.

L O N D O N:

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OF

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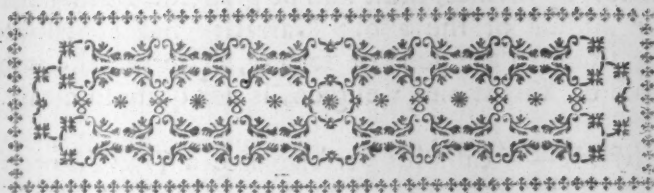
OF

IN A LETTER TO THE




1847

LONDON



A N
A N S W E R, &c.

 PROPOSE to offer to the Public a few words in answer to a Pamphlet entitled, "A Genuine and Succinct Narrative (of a Scandalous, obscene, and exceedingly profane Libel, called an Essay on Woman.") Written by the Reverend Mr. Kidgell.

In a free age, like that in which we live, every attempt to discourage and suppress vice and immorality, of whatever kind ; is certainly not only praise worthy, but deserves the thanks, countenance and encouragement of every man who wishes well to society, and who is a true friend to virtue and religion.

B

That

That matters of this sort are more particularly cognizable by divines, must also be granted. But whether the author of the above Narrative has contributed any thing to the good of society, or served the noble cause of Virtue and Religion, is not quite so clear.

Mr. K---- calls his performance a *True Narrative of an Essay on Woman*. The reader therefore naturally expects to be informed, not only who was the author, but by what means it fell into his (Mr. K---'s) hands. He tells you indeed, that part of a certain proof sheet was shewn to him by his *pious* friend Mr. Faden, at which time, they both seemed very doubtful of ever being able to obtain the whole of the work: And I dare venture to affirm, they have very *good reasons* for not making the public acquainted with the means they made use of to obtain it.

As Mr. K--- in his TRUE Narrative, neither tells us who is the Author, where it was printed, or by what means he obtained a complete copy; it surely will not be an impertinent question to ask him, How he came to know that this work was ever intended to be published? No man in his senses can believe, that the Essay on Woman, supposing the contents of it to be as bad as Mr. K---- has represented them were ever intended to be made public. And indeed, a publication of only the contents would have been thought a dangerous undertaking for any person but that of a divine of the church of England.

Had Mr. K---- shewn that strict regard for truth which he professes, I have reason to believe he could have

have informed the public, that the Essay on Woman was not written by *one person only* : He could have told us that some of the greatest personages in this kingdom, not only knew that there was such a work in being six or seven years ago, but that they themselves assisted in putting it together. He could have told us that the diabolical frontispiece, of which he so loudly and justly complains, was the invention of a noble ----- I will be bold enough to say he could likewise have informed us of his reasons for endeavouring *now* to confine it to *one man*. And moreover he ought to have told us the purpose and end that were to be answered by the publication of his *True Narrative*, which I own myself quite at a loss to guess.

But that the publication of such a flimsy performance could answer no one *good end* I will venture to pronounce, except the gratification of Mr. K----'s vanity, in making the world acquainted that he has had the honour of being chaplain to a noble lord ever since he was ordained, can be deemed such.

But says the reverend author, *as this proof fell into my hands by so uncommon an accident, my own heart assures me I should have been criminal, if I had innocently promoted the success of it, by an unseasonable and passive silence.* However sincere this profession may be, I am of opinion, that the publication of the Narrative is more criminal than his silence could have been. A little acquaintance with human nature would have convinced Mr. K----, if he is
open

open to conviction, that it is always best to conceal those errors and frailties of human nature, the exposing of which may have a bad effect upon the hearts of the readers.

It will therefore be proper to consider what, in all probability, would have been the consequence of suffering the Essay on Woman, to have passed unnoticed and disregarded.

A pamphlet is written, by a society of men, mad with wine, and wanton with desire; designing, no doubt, to create a laugh among themselves. One, more hardy than the rest, ventures to print a dozen copies (for more I am well informed were not printed) and that with the utmost precaution possible; even to the seeing them struck off himself, in order to prevent the evil from spreading. He gives every one of his companions a copy, which, by the by, is only a copy of their own private conversation; and meant as a mere joke among themselves. The reader will do me the justice to observe, that I do not pretend to say any thing in praise of these kind of jokes, which are by no means to be encouraged, because in the end, they have a very dangerous tendency; nor can there be a word offered in excuse for the work in question.

Mr. K---- by mere accident meets with a few pages of this performance; and tries *every means* in his power to obtain a complete copy. And for what end? Why, that he might have the pleasure of laying the contents of it before the public, and to make them

them acquainted, with what every friend to virtue must wish had been buried in oblivion. Surely this cannot be deemed a proper step to check the progress of a performance that thousands would have remained ignorant of, but for an act so inadvertent, so imprudent, and so prejudicial : I say prejudicial ! for every body is now calling for the thing itself, and I should not be surprized to here that a mutilated edition, or something under the same title, and equally bad, should be cried about the streets of this metropolis.

Besides, I must take occasion to observe, that Mr. K---- has not been very judicious in making his extracts. What can be more indecent than the following passage.

In another of his horrid-elucidations, the natural abilities of the As are made the subject of his unclean description, the blameless Scripture being still hawled in to be responsible. Then with a degree of confidence unheard of in any Protestant community, the unknowing reader is informed, that " that Animal was once held in great esteem, but that since he had been the Vehicle of the " Godhead into Jerusalem, he was become ridiculous."

What he says of the nudities of beasts, &c. is absolutely a publication of what the authors, I am sure, never would, nor never dare, attempt to make public. But a parson, patronized by a noble lord, and protected by the ----- may perhaps think he may write and publish with impunity.

And all this is done under a pretence of serving the community ! As this affair had taken air, and was under the consideration of a respectable assembly, at the west end of the town ; where the authors have no reason to expect too much lenity if they have ventured beyond the bounds prescribed by our excellent Laws, I must own Mr. K---'s premature performance, has the appearance of being impertinent, malicious, self-interested, mean, servile, insignificant, and entirely useless.

From hence it will appear, that the performance before us was not intended to serve the cause of religion, but evidently calculated to prejudice the *supposed* author, in the esteem of the public, and to lessen the popularity he has deservedly acquired by asserting the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of the people of England, against the joint efforts of a vile *Scotch faction* and *venal* disaffected Englishmen.

I shall forbear to tell the Public what mean illicit artifices were made use of, in order to obtain the copy that has given this offence, because it may prejudice a man, esteemed an honest industrious tradesman ; and however interest might at that time darken his *understanding*, I have too good an opinion of him to suppose that he does not *now* sincerely repent he had any thing to do in the affair.

Had Mr. K---- and Mr. F---- when they sat in council upon the poor unfortunate proof sheet, come to a resolution of committing it to the flames, they
would

would have shewed a proper abhorrence of the libel, served the cause of Virtue and Religion, and shewed themselves wise men.

It is reported, but with what truth I know not, that this curious Narrative contains a number of things, relative to the *Essay on Woman*, that are not true. If this be the case it will more plainly shew the cause the author intended to serve; but as I cannot advance this as a fact, I shall leave it to the further notice of those it more nearly concerns.

Upon the whole, I give it as my opinion, and I know it to be the sense of many others, that if the *Essay on Woman* contains any thing that can be deemed impious, profane, or unlawful, The Genuine Narrative published by the Reverend Mr. Kidgell, which not only contains, all the heads, but large extracts from the Piece itself, is not much less criminal, more decent, or more excusable, especially if we consider it comes from the hands of a DIVINE.

However, to shew the public that it is an entirely disinterested publication; I hope the reverend author will give the profits arising from so extensive a sale (that the nature of the subject and the plausibility of his title page will naturally procure) to the Magdalen charity.

F I N I S.

(11)

I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately
but I will try to write to you more often.
I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
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I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately
but I will try to write to you more often.

Yours truly

